



Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 263 13th Avenue South, St. Petersburg, Florida 33701

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

(see specific contacts for each program below)

February 14, 2008

FB08-011

Notice of Federal Data Collections in the Gulf Shrimp Fishery in 2008

NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries Service) is working to improve the quality of information available for the Gulf of Mexico shrimp fishery. Having appropriate and current data enables the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and NOAA Fisheries Service to carry out responsive and timely fisheries management.

With the implementation of the permit moratorium, NOAA Fisheries Service's Southeast Fisheries Science Center is starting new data collections. This bulletin provides permit holders an overview of the data collection requirements related to the federal Gulf of Mexico moratorium shrimp permit.

Federal Gulf shrimp permits are renewed annually. The application for renewal needs to be received within one year of the permit's expiration date. The permit office can be reached by calling 1-877-376-4877 (toll free). Permit related information also can be found on the Web at: <http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>.

Besides the annual permit renewal, **every permit holder is required** to complete and submit the following:

1. "Annual landings form" (Gulf of Mexico Shrimp Federal Permit Reporting Form):

This one-page form collects total annual shrimp landings in pounds and dollars by shrimp species harvested from state and federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico. This data collection is being introduced this year, asking for 2005, 2006, and 2007 information. In subsequent years, the request will only be for the previous year.

2. Gulf Shrimp Vessel & Gear Characterization Form:

This six-page form collects information about total annual fishing effort (such as number of trips, days at sea, and crew), and about the gear most commonly used during the past year (such as details on typical gear configuration, bycatch reduction device and turtle excluder device used, and on-board electronics). This year, information will be requested for both 2006 and 2007. In subsequent years, the request will only be for the previous year.

Both these forms are required for all permit holders. Please direct any questions to Rebecca Smith at (409) 766-3783. Forms are expected to be mailed beginning February 2008. The due date is April 30, 2008.

In addition to the above forms, **permit holders may be selected** to participate in one or more additional data collections. Only a limited number of vessels will be sampled to minimize the overall reporting burden on shrimp fishermen. **Permit holders will be notified if selected for any of the following data collections. If selected, participation is required for permit renewal.**

3. Annual Economic Survey of Federal Gulf Shrimp Permit Holders:

If selected, permit holders are required to provide data about operating expenses and the cost of owning shrimp vessels to determine the economic and social effects of regulations and other factors affecting the profitability of the fishery. The two-page survey will be sent annually to a random sample of 20 percent of permitted vessels, but no vessel will be selected two years in a row. Please direct any questions to Christopher Liese at (305) 361-4263. Selection letters are expected to be sent out beginning in February 2008. The information requested in this survey should be readily available from tax or similar forms. The due date is April 30, 2008.

4. Electronic Logbook (ELB) Program:

If selected, a vessel will be equipped with an electronic logbook provided by NOAA Fisheries Service. The ELB program collects information regarding the geographic location of effort. The memory units will be changed two to four times during the year, at no cost to the fisherman. The contacts for the program are Benny Gallaway or John Cole at LGL Ecological Research Associates, Inc., (979) 775-2000. Selection is an ongoing process, and notification is through the mail.

5. Onboard Observers Program:

If selected, a vessel will carry a NOAA Fisheries Service-approved observer on selected trips. Observers collect catch, effort, bycatch, and other scientific

information, as necessary. Please direct any questions to Elizabeth Scott-Denton at (409) 766-3571. Sampling is conducted for three periods in 2008, starting in January, May, and September. Notification is by certified letter.

6. Trip Interview Information:

If selected, permit holders need to provide information for any fishing trip, as requested by authorized statistical reporting agents of the NOAA Fisheries Service, including, but not limited to, vessel identification, gear, effort, amount of shrimp caught by species, shrimp condition (heads on/heads off), fishing areas and depths, and the person to whom the shrimp was sold.

Thank you for your past and future cooperation with these data collection efforts. The information is critical for more responsive and timely management of the fishery. All individual information will be treated strictly confidential.

How Can We Improve These Fishery Bulletins?

If you have any suggestions on how we may improve future fishery bulletins, please contact:

Kim Amendola, Communication Specialist

Phone: 727-551-5707

FAX: 727-824-5320

E-mail: SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov

If you would like to receive these fishery bulletins via e-mail as soon as they are published, please e-mail us at the address below. You will still receive a print copy of these bulletins through the mail.

E-mail SERO.Communications.Comments@noaa.gov and include (1) "Request for Electronic Fishery Bulletins" in the subject line; and (2) Your preferred e-mail address in the body of the e-mail.

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